

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 11, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMSON made the following

REPORT

[To accompany bill S. 398.]

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Samuel R. Franklin, a lieutenant in the navy, have had the same under consideration, and report :*

That the petitioner was a lieutenant, performing duty as such on board the sloop-of-war Falmouth, attached to the Brazil squadron ; that on the 16th of May, 1858, the purser of that ship having been detached and ordered to the flag-ship by the commander-in-chief, he was appointed acting purser to fill the vacancy thus occasioned ; and that on that day he entered upon the discharge of the duties of purser of the Falmouth, and continued to perform them until the end of the cruise and the adjustment of the accounts of that vessel at the Treasury Department.

This case having been submitted to the Navy Department, the following facts were obtained :

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *February 16, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, inclosing the petition of Lieutenant Samuel R. Franklin.

The statement made by Lieutenant Franklin as to his having performed the duty of acting purser for the period mentioned is correct. The settlement of his account shows him indebted to the government to the amount of \$660 47, \$598 63 of which is for difference of pay between lieutenant and acting purser. This amount the department has allowed him to retain until he should have an opportunity of presenting his claim to Congress. The balance consists of suspensions and disallowances. During the time that he performed the duties of purser, he was relieved from duty as lieutenant.

The petition is herewith returned.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Hon. S. R. MALLORY,

*Chairman Committee on Naval Affairs, U. S. Senate.*

The claim of the petitioner is for the difference between the pay he received and that which a purser would have received had there been one on board, amounting to \$598 63, as will be seen by reference to the letter of the honorable Secretary of the Navy herein inserted.

These cases, not of frequent occurrence, have been favorably regarded by Congress, and the difference of pay is esteemed by your committee as only a proper reward to the officer who faithfully discharges, without loss or injury to the government, the responsible duties of a disbursing officer, not properly, but at times necessarily, devolving upon the line officers of the navy, from the insufficiency of officers of the appropriate class.

Your committee therefore report the accompanying bill, and recommend its passage.